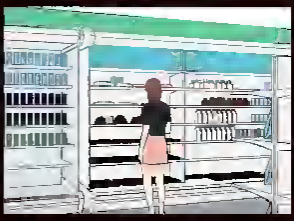
Serenade

BY KELIM KYESOO



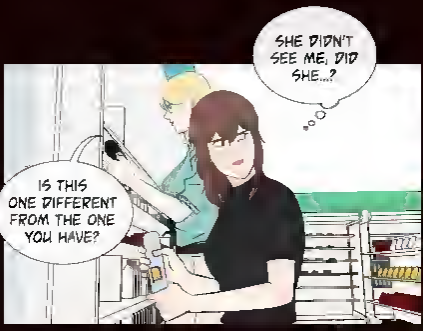
KIMBAP...

CLICK
CLACK

WELCOME~
CRICK

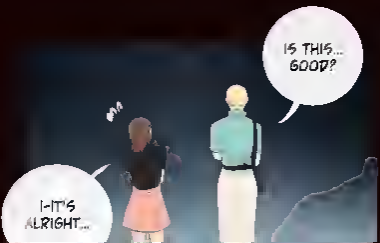
!!!?

WHY IS PROFESSOR HERE...?
CLICK
CLACK
CLICK
CLACK...
DID SHE LEAVE...?

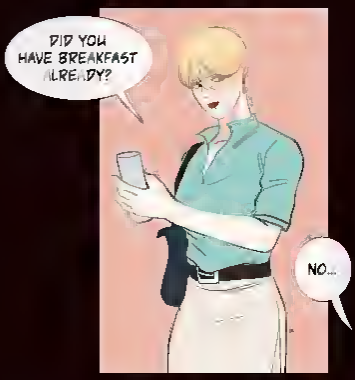

SHE DIDN'T SEE ME, DID SHE...?
IS THIS ONE DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE YOU HAVE?

HUH...?!!
AH, YES...

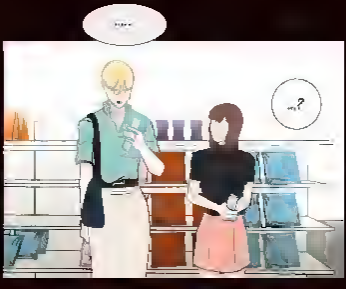
IS IT THIS ONE...?
...


IS THIS... GOOD?
I-IT'S ALRIGHT...

AND IS THIS ENOUGH FOR A MEAL?

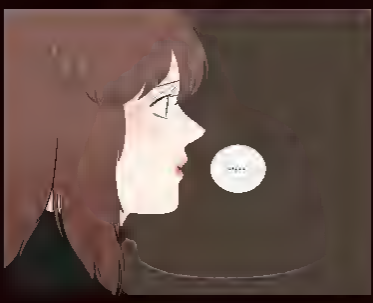

DID YOU HAVE BREAKFAST ALREADY?
NO...

WHEN DO YOU HAVE CLASS?
10 O'CLOCK...
HM...


...?

TAK-
IS THERE A PLACE TO EAT AROUND HERE THAT'S NOT SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

.....?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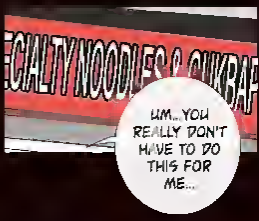
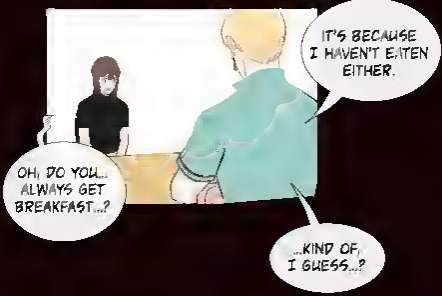

*KOREAN SOUP DISH
UM... YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS FOR ME...

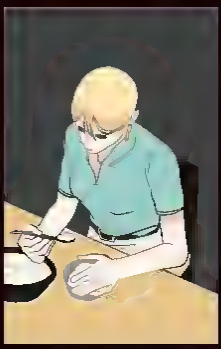

IT'S BECAUSE I HAVEN'T EATEN EITHER.
OH, DO YOU... ALWAYS GET BREAKFAST...?
...KIND OF, I GUESS...?

I'M TREATING YOU BECAUSE I HAPPENED TO BUMP INTO YOU I COULDN'T JUST IGNORE YOU SO MIGHT AS WELL
T-THANK YOU...

YOU MUST LIKE GUKBAP VERY MUCH HUH...? TO CHOOSE A PLACE LIKE THIS...

YES..I CRAVE IT ESPECIALLY ON THE NEXT DAY AFTER I DRINK...
DID YOU DRINK YESTERDAY...?
AH...WELL...
..YES.
ENJOY YOUR MEAL~
UM... PROFESSOR..DO YOU..LIKE GUKBAP AS WELL?
TAK
YES..I GUESS...
ENJOY YOUR MEAL~
SSK

THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL...
...YEAH.



AFTER MAKING A SCENE LIKE THAT YESTERDAY...
AFTER LOSING COMPOSURE...

...AND MAKING THINGS AWKWARD FOR HER...

I THOUGHT THAT SHE WOULD JUST PASS BY... EVEN IF SHE SAW ME..

AH...I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO CHOKE...

WHAT'S WRONG? IT DOESN'T TASTE GOOD?

I CAN'T TASTE ANYTHING.

I CAN'T EVEN TELL WHETHER I'M EATING WITH MY MOUTH OR MY NOSE...

DID YOU ENJOY YOUR MEAL?
YES. CHECK PLEASE.
I FEEL SO BAD.
AH...! I'M AFRAID...
..OUR CREDIT CARD MACHINE IS BROKEN RIGHT NOW, SO WE CAN'T ACCEPT CARDS.
DO YOU HAVE CASH, BY ANY CHANCE...?
CASH...?
AH, I HAVE CASH...!

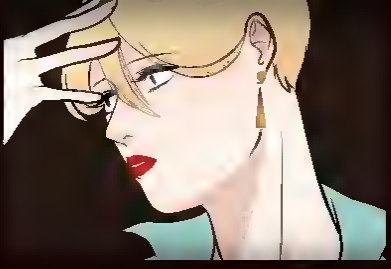
YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO TREAT HER TO A MEAL RIGHT? HOW DID IT GO?
.....
.....

HONG, DO YOU SEE MY WALLET THERE...?
YES...

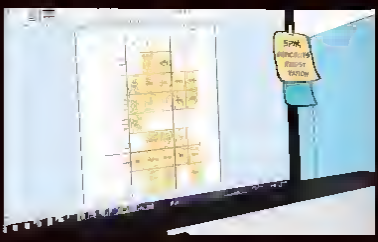
TAKE THE MONEY AND BUY YEONJU A DRINK OR SOMETHING.
GASP...!!

WHY ARE THEY ALL 50,000 WON BILLS? DON'T YOU HAVE ANY CHANGE?
.....

YOU DON T USUALLY CARRY AROUND CASH LIKE THIS THOUGH



A BIT LATER,
1:05 PM.



NO CLASS AT 1...

I SHOULD GO GET COFFEE FOR HER RIGHT NOW.

??!
AH, MR. HONG?

DID YOU HAVE LUNCH ALREADY?

YEAH... DID YOU COME HERE TO GET COFFEE?

YES...WE DIDN'T FEEL LIKE EATING, SO...
I SEE...

..GOOD-BYE THEN..

I came to the cafe to get coffee for Yeonju, but she already had some so it didn't work out...
1:15 PM

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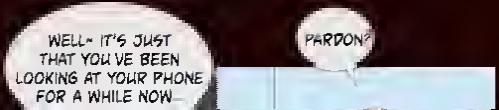
OH, AND...
YOU HAVE TO BE COME TO JUDGE AT THE CONCOURS THIS TIME, PROFESSOR JIN.

AH, YES.

IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?


WELL~ IT'S JUST THAT YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING AT YOUR PHONE FOR A WHILE NOW...
PARDON?

OH.. I'M SORRY.
...YOU SURE SEEM RELAXED...
!?
MUST BE NICE
EVERYONE ELSE IS SO BUSY PREPARING FOR THE CONCOURS SINCE IT'S SO IMPORTANT AND YET YOU'RE SO RELAXED
JUST OUT OF CURIOSITY,
WHY WON'T YOU ACCEPT MORE STUDENTS?
YOU ONLY HAVE ONE SENIOR AND ONE FRESHMAN RIGHT NOW.
PROFESSOR HWANG...!!

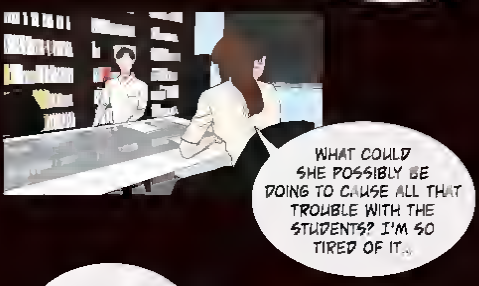
AH, IT REALLY MUST BE NICE
I WISH I COULD JUST HAVE TWO STUDENTS AS WELL-
SIGH

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE FOR THE MEETING?
AH, N-NO!

MAY I EXCUSE MYSELF THEN?
AH! YES, YES! OF COURSE...
WE CAN JUST MEET UP AGAIN IF SOMETHING COMES UP.

PROFESSOR HWANG...

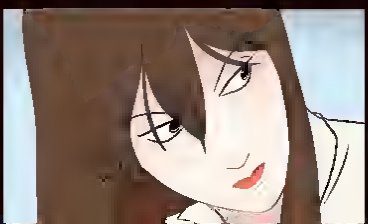
AGHH!
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING I LIKE ABOUT HER!!!
I GET FURIOUS JUST BY LOOKING AT HER FACE...UGH!


WHAT COULD SHE POSSIBLY BE DOING TO CAUSE ALL THAT TROUBLE WITH THE STUDENTS? I'M SO TIRED OF IT...

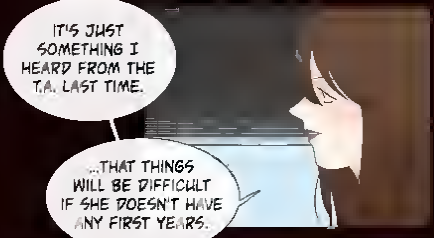
THINGS WERE PRETTY QUIET FOR A YEAR, THEN IT HAPPENS AGAIN THIS YEAR...
SERIOUSLY, WHAT IS THIS?!

DOESN'T IT BOTHER YOU AT ALL, PROFESSOR OH?
I HEARD THAT YOU ALMOST LOST ONE OF YOUR STUDENTS TOO DURING THE LAST CONCOURS.
AND THAT EVERYTHING WAS CALLED OFF BECAUSE THE STUDENT DIDN'T HAVE THE GRADES. I MEAN WHAT IN THE WORLD???
SHE'S SO YOUNG TOO...AND SHE LOOKS DOWN ON US...THIS REALLY IS VERY ARROGANT OF HER, PROFESSOR.
BUT WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT...
HER FATHER IS THE VICE-PROVOST, AND SHE'S EVEN GOT THE CHAIRMAN BACKING HER UP...

AH...IT'S JUST THAT...WELL, SHE ONLY HAS ONE FIRST YEAR STUDENT RIGHT NOW, SO...
THINGS WILL BE DIFFICULT IF SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY...



IF WE TAKE THE REMAINING STUDENT FROM HER, EVEN THAT SEO JIN WOULD BE IN A BIND, RIGHT?
PARDON???


IT'S JUST SOMETHING I HEARD FROM THE T.A. LAST TIME.
...THAT THINGS WILL BE DIFFICULT IF SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY FIRST YEARS.

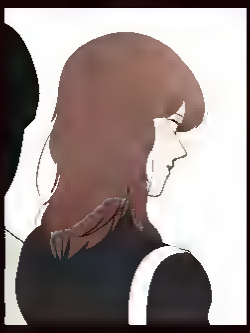
BUT...YOU WERE COMPLAINING ABOUT HAVING TO TAKE CARE OF THE TROUBLE JUST NOW...
THAT'S NOT THE POINT...
I'M NOT SAYING THAT THE STUDENT IS THE PROBLEM BUT THAT SEO JIN HERSELF IS THE PROBLEM.

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO...?
TAKE HER

STUDENT. AND KEEP IT A SECRET.
WOULD THAT WORK?
THERE'S NO WAY THAT THE STUDENT WOULD ACCEPT THE OFFER NOW...

YOU NEVER KNOW.

WE HAVEN'T PERSONALLY ASKED THE PERSON IN QUESTION YET.
WHETHER SHE WANTS TO STAY UNDER PROFESSOR JIN OR NOT

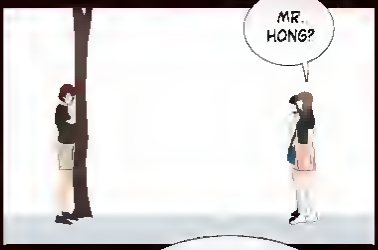


SERIOUSLY, YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING GOING ON, RIGHT?
HUH? NO, NO...!

BUT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN LOOKING GOOD FOR A WHILE NOW...
NO...I JUST HAVE SOMETHING I NEED TO THINK ABOUT...
WHAT IS IT?

?!

....AH...


MR. HONG?

I'M SEEING YOU A LOT TODAY. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

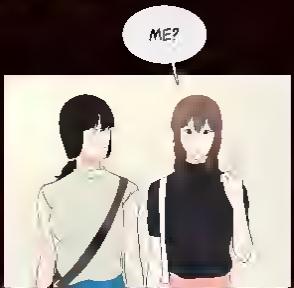
...AH.. UM... WELL...

AHAHA!!!!
WE MEET AGAIN, HUH?!! WHAT A COINCIDENCE, RIGHT...?

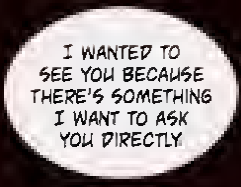
.....?

BUT NICE TIMING, THOUGH...

LOOKS LIKE PROFESSOR HWANG... WANTS TO SEE YOU, YEONJU...


ME?

KNOCK
KNOCK



to be continued...